

on which they are providing additional information.

The following commodities and service have been proposed for addition to Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

*Commodities*

Pallet, Runner

3990-01-415-6951

NPA: Tarrant County Association for the Blind, Fort Worth, Texas

Basin, Wash

6530-01-075-2723

NPA: The Arc of St. Clair County, Port Huron, Michigan

Folder, File

7530-00-663-0031

(Requirements for the Stockton, California depot only)

NPA: Lions Club Industries, Inc., Durham, North Carolina

Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina

Insert, Foam, Laminated

8135-00-NSH-0004

(Requirements for the U.S. Mint, Washington, DC)

NPA: Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette, Portland, Oregon

*Service*

Janitorial/Custodial, Beaver U.S. Army Reserve Center, 2001 Industrial Park Road, Beaver, West Virginia

NPA: Wyoming County Workshop, Inc., Maben, West Virginia

Beverly L. Milkman,

*Executive Director.*

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BILLING CODE 6820-33-P

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Corps of Engineers

#### **Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Future 404 Permit Actions on the Santa Clara River and its Tributaries, Los Angeles County, California**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Corps will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Proposed General Permit on future 404 permit activities associated with the phased development of the Valencia Master Plan along a portion of the Santa Clara River and its tributaries, Los Angeles County, California. The proposed 404 decision(s) are associated with proposed flood control and transportation projects related to residential, commercial and industrial development on lands owned by Valencia Company. The EIS will

address project-specific impacts, indirect and cumulative impacts, and a range of alternatives. Information in the EIS will be used in the decision whether to issue a 404 permit or series of permits for future flood control improvements, bridges, drainage facilities, and other actions associated with the continual development of the region. The draft EIS is currently scheduled for public review in early 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mr. Bruce Henderson, Regulatory Branch, CESPL-CO-R, Permit Number 94-504-BH, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District—300 North Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Copies of the Special Scoping Notice dated March 16, 1994 may be obtained by calling (213) 894-5606 and indicating that you are requesting a copy of the Valencia Special Scoping Notice, and leaving your name, address (or fax number), and phone number. Additional documents relative to the project may be reviewed by contacting the Los Angeles District (address above); the Ventura Field Office of the Corps of Engineers 2151, Alessandro Drive, Suite 255, Ventura CA 93001, (805) 641-1127; or Mr. Mark Subbotin, Valencia Company, 23823 Valencia Company, 23823 Valencia Blvd., Valencia, CA 91335, (805) 255-4069.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Previous Notices**

A Notice of Intent (NOI) for a previous version of this project was issued Oct. 10, 1990. The DEIS was not completed. Since 1990 Valencia Company has: (1) Completed hydrologic studies which resulted in revisions to the proposed flood control improvements; and (2) explored the use of a general permit and Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) for the proposed project.

A Special Scoping Notice to consider a General Permit for the project was issued by the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers on March 16, 1994 (See below to obtain copies.) Comments were received, responded to by the applicant, and reviewed by the Corps. The Corps determined that an EIS should be prepared because: (1) Potentially significant individual and cumulative impacts to wetlands, riparian habitat, and endangered species resources along portions of the river might occur; (2) there is a need to evaluate cumulative impacts to such resources from other discharges in the vicinity; and (3) other permit processes in the watershed have generated impacts to the biological community. The Corps further

determined that it was premature to make a decision regarding whether a General Permit was the appropriate form of permit for this project. This determination was based on the fact that it appeared that the proposed project, with mitigation, could not meet the "minimal impacts" requirement for a General Permit.

**Study Area**

The project area includes 2.0 linear miles of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River, the mouth of Bouquet Creek, 2.5 linear miles of San Francisquito Creek, 7.6 linear miles of the mainstream of the Santa Clara River and jurisdictional tributaries from near the Los Angeles Aqueduct crossing to the Castaic Creek confluence.

**Proposed Action**

The proposed action is the issuance of a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit or set of permits to Valencia Company that would authorize numerous flood control and drainage facilities, and bridges over a 15 to 20 year period. These public works projects will be associated with various residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational developments. Most of the proposed development projects would be carried out by Valencia Company; however, several of the identified projects may be constructed by others, using the proposed permit issued to Valencia Company. If a general permit is issued, it would apply to other applicants in addition to Valencia Company.

Valencia Company is currently planning and constructing various component projects of the Valencia Master Plan along portions of the Santa Clara River and its tributaries. Certain projects along the river and its tributaries will result in excavation and/or the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States ("waters") as defined in 33 CFR 320-330 under provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. These activities require a Department of the Army permit. Projects resulting in excavation and/or discharges include channel bank protection for flood control, drainage structures, bridges, fill, mitigation or other encroachment into the Santa Clara River and its tributaries.

The proposed action to be addressed in the EIS has been substantially revised since the 1990 NOI, but is essentially the same as that described as the "Natural River Management Concept" in the 1994 Special Scoping Notice. This concept includes the following elements: (1) Channel bank protection will be placed only where necessary; (2) bank protection will be placed such that

impacts to wetlands along the river will be avoided or minimized where practicable; (3) a balance of wetland losses and wetland gains (by mitigation) will be sought; and (4) as proposed, clearing of vegetation in the finished river channel for maintenance purposes will not be necessary. (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is in concurrence with this goal for most areas of the proposed project. Negotiations on the details of the maintenance agreement ("agreement") between Valencia Company and L.A. County Public Works are in process. The agreement must be signed prior to completion of the DEIS in order that the agreement and a discussion of its ramifications can be included in the DEIS. (If the signed agreement cannot be included in the DEIS other alternative maintenance regimes will be considered in the DEIS.)

#### Scope of Analysis in the EIS

The scope of the EIS impact analysis will follow the directives in 33 CFR 325 (Appendices B and C) which require the scope of an EIS be limited to the impacts of the specific activities requiring a 404 permit and only those portions of the project outside of waters where there is sufficient federal control and responsibility to warrant federal review. The latter activities are characterized as those which would not occur "but for" the 404 discharge activity. That is, related actions that are clearly and solely dependent upon the nearby 404 activities.

The EIS will address impacts of facilities that would occur within jurisdictional waters. In addition, the EIS will address adjacent land development projects in the "but for zone" (see below) that are directly dependent on adjacent bank protection or levees.

The EIS will address potential permitting strategies in which an individual permit, general permit, or combination of individual, nationwide, and/or general permits, are issued. The permit timeframe would be 5 years, with administrative renewals over a 15 to 20 year period in accordance with Corps regulations.

#### "But for Zone"

The EIS will clearly delineate a "but for zone" along the edge of jurisdictional waters. The boundary of the "but for zone" to be used as the upland limit of the EIS impact assessment is defined as 105 feet inland from the existing river bank. The 105 feet determination is based on information that 105 feet is the distance necessary to move the levee laterally in

order that both the toe of the levee and the construction zone would be behind the bank (i.e. all structures and construction would be in uplands and therefore not regulated by the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act). Bank protection installed within "but for zone" will result in permanent or temporary discharges of dredged or fill material to waters, and therefore require a 404 permit. Bank protection installed outside this zone, would not affect waters and therefore would not require a 404 permit.

Valencia Company submitted the following statement in justification for limiting the lateral extent of the Scope of Analysis to 105 feet:

#### *"Arguments For Justifying The Development Assumptions Outside*

The "But For" Zone, Valencia Master Plan 404 Permit

The scope of the EIS impact analysis will follow the directives in 33 CFR 325 that require the scope of an EIS be limited to the impacts of the specific activities requiring a 404 permit, and only those portions of the project outside of "waters" over which the Corps has sufficient control and responsibility to warrant federal review. The latter activities would include actions that would not occur "but for" the 404 discharge activity. That is, related actions that are clearly and solely dependent upon the nearby 404 activities.

The boundary of the "but for zone" to be used as the upland limit of the EIS impact assessment is defined as 105 feet inland from the existing river bank. Bank protection installed in uplands within this zone will result in temporary impact to "waters," and therefore require a 404 permit. Bank protection installed outside would not affect "waters", and therefore would not require a 404 permit.

The impacts of future land development and public works projects outside the "but for zone" would not be addressed in the EIS because it is a reasonable assumption that such projects would occur with or without the issuance of a 404 permit for bank protection, which would allow land development within the "but for zone". In other words, future land development and public works projects are independent of the proposed bank protection and will not be addressed in the EIS as an action that is linked, dependent upon, or otherwise caused by the proposed 404 permit. The justification for this approach is based on the reasonable assumption that lands outside the "but for zone" where the Corps has no permit jurisdiction will be developed in the future. This assumption is based on the following considerations:

1. There are tremendous economic and population pressures in the region. The population of the Santa Clarita Valley has been growing rapidly since 1970 and 1980. The valley experienced a 23.7% increase in population. Between 1980 and 1989, the population doubled to approximately 154,000 people. The City and County's

General Plans project populations which will double again by the year 2010. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) adopted a new demographic projections in June 1994 which showed the Santa Clarita Valley population at 462,000 people by the year 2015.

Employment is expected to increase by even greater percentage. SCAG Forecasts from the City of Santa Clarita General Plan shows employment growing from an estimated 23,000 in 1984 to 97,000 jobs in the year 2010, an increase of over 315%. At its peak in the late 1980's industrial square footage was being added at a rate of a million square feet per year. Another measure of demand for industrial square footage is the vacancy rate which is currently 6.5% in the Valencia Industrial Center. This compares to 11.3% in the San Fernando Valley and 12.7% in Southern California. Retail commercial space has shown similar strengths in the Santa Clarita Valley. The Santa Clarita area has exhibited an annual retail sales rate of 11.5% in the last seven years, compared to retail sales rate of only 2% in the last five years in California.

2. Lands outside the "but for zone" in the City are zoned for development. Lands outside the "but for zone" in the City of Santa Clarita are zoned for residential, commercial, and industrial uses and are surrounded by these same land uses. Valencia Company intends to continue this type of development to meet the demands of the growing population in the Santa Clarita Valley. One of the principal components of the City of Santa Clarita's General Plan is the "Valley Center Concept". This concept is intended to create a valley identity and to unify surrounding communities by designating a central core of the valley. Within this area, higher density residential and commercial land uses would be allowed to permit lower densities in the surrounding communities. The Santa Clara River corridor is the major opportunity to link the components of the center together with the uniform theme of natural open space preservation and river enhancement.

3. Land outside the "but for zone" in the unincorporated portions of the County are designated for commercial and industrial development in the General Plan. Many are still zoned for agriculture; however, zone change requests for residential, commercial, and industrial uses are being processed by the County to make the zoning consistent with the General Plan designations and allow urban development. Valencia Company and others intend to continue residential, commercial, and industrial developments to meet the demands of the growing population in the region.

4. Lands outside the "but for zone" in the County are zoned for Development. Land development outside the "but for zone" is feasible without adjacent 404 permits. If a Corps permit were not issued and the "but for zone" was not developed, land development would still be feasible outside the "but for zone". However, less land would be available and many parcels would be reduced in size and altered in terms of their configurations. These effects would reduce the value and potential uses of these

properties. However, these lands are located within areas already surrounded by urban land uses. As such, there is a high priority to develop these lands prior to developing lands at more remote locations in the Santa Clarita Valley for several reasons: (1) The infrastructure is already present in these areas; and (2) the City and County General Plans emphasize in-filling of such areas within the urbanized portions of the valley in order to prevent scattered and disjunct development of outlying areas.

Development of flood protection features outside the "but for zone" if feasible. Such protection could involve several options: (1) Elevating land development projects above the floodway in accordance with Los Angeles County requirements; or (2) excavating dry land and installing levees and/or bank protection. Hence, the distance of the "but for zone" from the river (105 or more feet) would not represent a constraint on flood protection improvements.

Based on the above considerations, the assumption that the land outside the "but for zone" would be developed with or without the proposed 404 permit is reasonable.

#### Key Environmental Impacts

The key types of environmental impacts to be addressed in the EIS are listed below:

a. **Riparian habitat and wetlands**—Future flood control projects could result in the permanent or temporary loss or temporary disturbance of riparian and wetland habitat. The Valencia Master Plan includes the creation and restoration of riparian and wetland habitats along the river to compensate for these losses in other portions of the river. The EIS will assess the loss or gain of these resources over the short term and long term based on their acreages, functions, and values.

b. **Threatened and endangered species**—Portions of the Santa Clara River support the Federally listed endangered unarmored threespine stickleback fish (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*).

In addition, riparian habitat along the river provides potentially suitable habitat for the Federally listed endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*). These species could be affected by loss of wetlands, change in hydrologic conditions, and increased urban runoff. Species Proposed or designated as Candidates for Federal listing will also be addressed in the EIS.

c. **Hydraulics, hydrology, and water quality**—The EIS will address the effects of bank protection, bridges, and adjacent upland development on the river's hydrology, flood hazard conditions, hydraulic characteristics, sediment transport, and water quality.

d. The EIS will also address impacts of the proposed action (within the scope of analysis) related to air quality,

groundwater, recreation, visual resources, noise, traffic, land use, and cultural resources.

#### Cumulative Impacts

The EIS will address the combined effects of various future flood control facilities and urban development encroaching into the river from Lang Station (7.1 miles upstream of the east end of the project reach) to the Ventura County line 4.1 miles downstream of the west end of the project reach), including major tributaries. The assessment will focus on adverse cumulative impacts to water quality, sediment transport conditions, riparian and wetland habitat, and threatened and endangered species. Other cumulative impacts will also be addressed regarding air quality, groundwater, recreation, visual resources, and cultural resources.

#### Alternatives

The following alternatives will be addressed in the EIS: (1) No action Alternative—denial of a long-term comprehensive permit and lack of any new Section 404 authorizations allowing future development projects; limited authorizations issued by the Corps would be presumed only for emergency work on existing projects and minimal impact maintenance projects; (2) Full Encroachment Alternative—conventional uniform bank protection according to previous Los Angeles County Public Works Department plans, resulting in encroachment into the river at most locations (which would maximize developable land); (3) Complete Avoidance Alternative—placement of levees and bank protection outside of waters at all locations, avoiding the need for a Corps 404 permit except at bridge and side drain locations; (4) Refined Proposed Project Alternative—the proposed project with revisions to the channel alignment and placement to avoid certain site-specific impacts or highly sensitive areas that will be identified in the EIS impact studies; (5) Other Alternatives—other alternatives identified in the public scoping process that are consistent with the project objectives and do not have other new significant impacts; and (6) Permitting Alternatives—a range of permitting process alternatives, including various combinations of general, nationwide, and individual permits and administrative processes.

#### Public Involvement

Interested parties are encouraged to be involved in the scoping process by sending written comments concerning the scope of the EIS to the contact

person noted above. Written comments on the NOI are due to Corps Regulatory at the address noted below no later than October 31, 1995.

In addition, a public scoping meeting is scheduled for October 5, 1995, 7:00 pm to 10 pm, at the Valencia Hilton Garden Inn in the Pacific A and B rooms, 27710 The Old Road, Valencia. Interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Richard J. Schubel,

Acting Regulatory Branch.

[FR Doc. 95-24190 Filed 9-28-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-KF-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Environment, Safety and Health

[Notice 96-01]

#### Continuation of Solicitation for Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Annual notice of continuation of potential availability of grants and cooperative agreements.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Health Studies within the Office of Environment, Safety and Health of the Department of Energy (DOE) announces its continuing interest in receiving applications for grants and cooperative agreements for occupational and environmental health studies related to nuclear weapons production, research, development, storage and dismantling and energy production, transmission and use. A final program rule, which specifies the general policies and procedures governing the purpose and scope, program areas, eligibility, application requirements, evaluation criteria, solicitation and selection procedures for the Office of Health Studies financial assistance program, was published in the Federal Register (60 FR 5838) on January 31, 1995, effective March 2, 1995. Proposed research applications and pre-applications shall comply with 10 CFR Part 602.

The three offices within the Office of Health Studies, the Office of Epidemiologic Studies, the Office of International Health Studies, and the Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance, promote studies to identify and assess the health risks associated with occupational or environmental exposures to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals in the following populations: Employees of DOE and of DOE contractors